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Date:

July 21, 2003

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Haruhiro Watanabe
Serial No. :
Filing Date : (herewith)
Title : ARTICLE TRANSFER METHOD USING SELF-PROPELLED
CARRIAGE, AND SELF-PROPELLED CARRIAGE
Group Art Unit. : Examiner :
Attorney Docket : MM0721US (#90326)

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

Claims Amendments

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring articles to[/] and from an article handling section, using a self-propelled carriage capable of travelling along a fixed path, the carriage comprising a movable body [capable of moving] moveable in a longitudinal direction with respect to a carriage